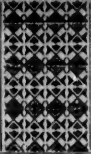


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THE LAND

OF THE

MIDNIGHT SUN

A BEAUTIFUL COLLECTION OF ALASKA AND NORTHWEST
TERRITORY VIEWS, INCLUDING TOTEMS, GLACIERS, THE GREAT
TREADWELL MINE AND VARIOUS OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST
IN ALASKA, ALSO A TRIP TO THE GOLD FIELDS OF THE
KLONDIKE 

The —
Albertype
Co.
Brooklyn
N. Y.



Published and Copyrighted 1899
BY J. B. PRATHER
DOUGLAS, ALASKA

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P912



Yours Truly
J. B. Knapp

AS a result of several years diligent work, and a patient endurance of the many hardships incident to life in the far north, I have secured numerous negatives of the various places of interest in Alaska and Northwest Territory, in fact, so many, that it would require an expenditure of considerable money to obtain a full collection of my views in real photographs, consequently the necessity of a well selected collection in **Photo Gravure** was requisite to overcome this very objectionable difficulty, in order that all may avail themselves of this rare opportunity. In preparing this edition, I can assure my many friends that the greatest care and judgment has been exercised in selecting these choice scenes, as it has been my earnest desire to illustrate the entire subject of Alaska, in such a manner, that this album cannot fail to be attractive, and far superior to anything of the kind previously published.

In view of the fact that this beautiful collection would be incomplete, I have given brief history; also whenever necessary, more definite and detailed description, but I have not attempted anything extensive. Thanking my patrons for their generous appreciation of my efforts, I respectfully submit this work.

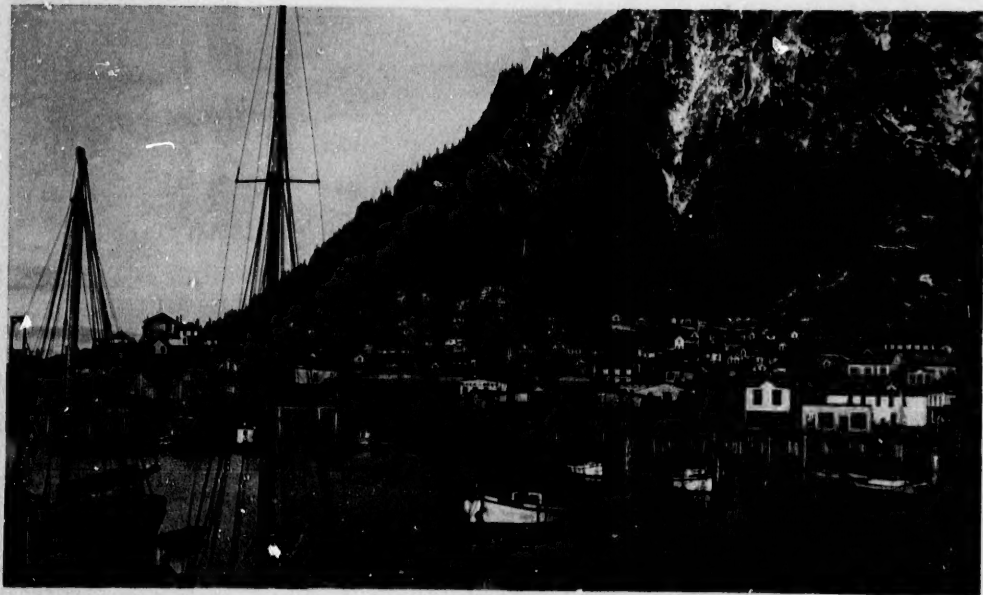
Yours truly,

J. B. PRATHER.

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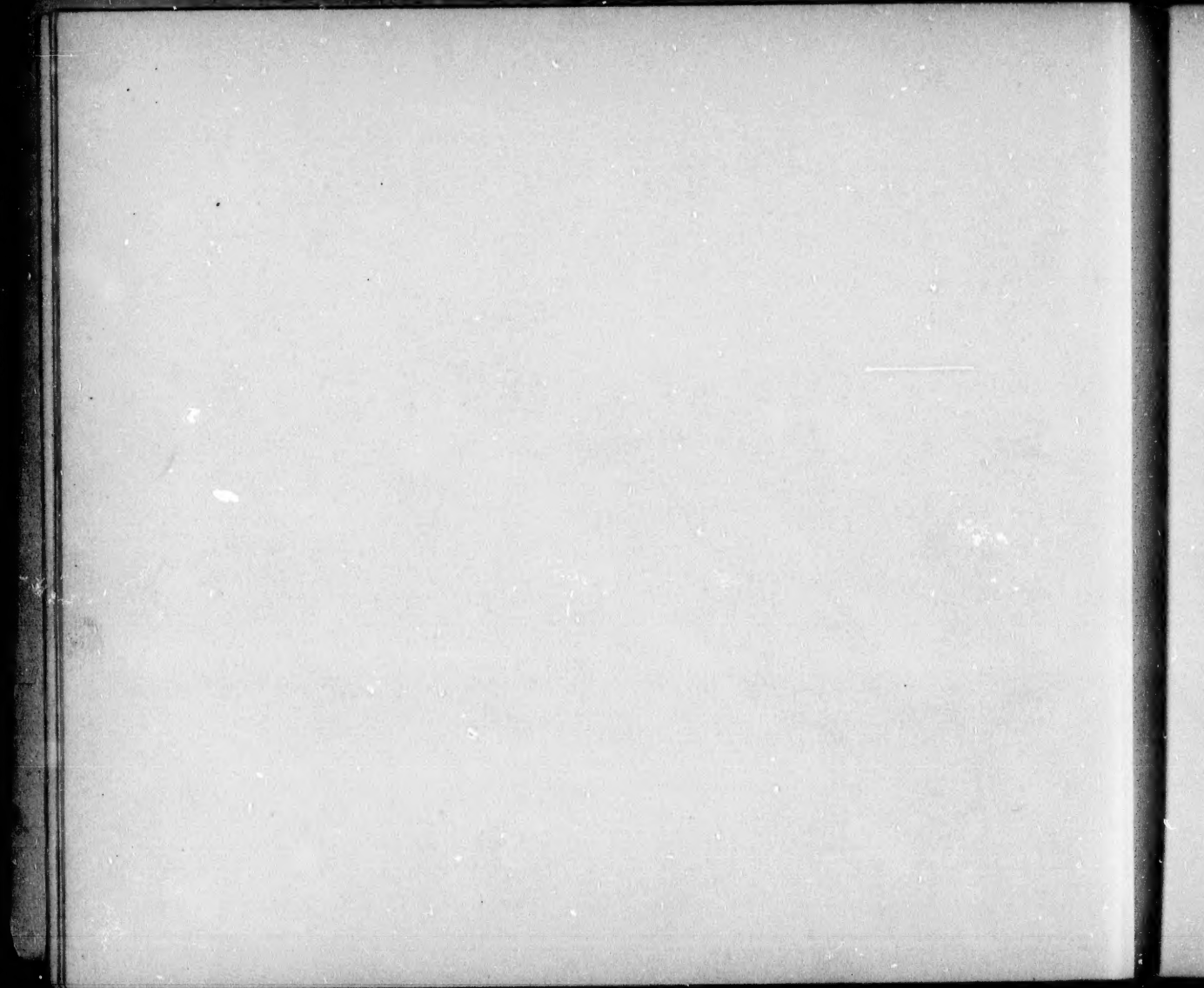
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JUNEAU, ALASKA.

Juneau, the metropolis, is situated at the head of Gastineux Channel about 899 miles from Seattle. It is the Natural Outfitting Station for Yukoners who seek fortune in the far interior.





IMMENSE ICEBERG BEACHED NEAR READY BULLION.

These massive chunks are discharged from glaciers, and are blown ashore by "Takon Winds," which prevail during the spring months.





ICEBERG AT TAKON HARBOR.





THE THOUSAND ISLANDS.

U. S. MARINE STATION.





SITKA, THE CAPITAL OF ALASKA.

This ancient Capital of the Ramanoffs is still the seat of Territorial Government.
The Greek Church is one of the principal objects of interest, and is visited by a large number of
tourists each year.





INTERIOR GREEK CHURCH.



THE MADONNA AND CHILD.



BRIEF HISTORY OF ALASKA.

ALASKA was discovered in 1741 by Vitus Behring, the Russian explorer, followed by Captain Cook and his party in 1776, who explored the coast and inlet now bearing his name. In the latter part of the eighteenth century the Russians established trading posts at Sitka, on a number of islands and various places along the coast. During the period of 1799 to 1862 these American domains of the Czar were controlled by the Russian American Fur Company, they having obtained a charter from the Russian Crown. In consequence of the great abuse of the power which it conferred the Imperial Government refused to renew it.

PURCHASE OF ALASKA.

The Territory of Alaska, of which Sitka is the capital, occupies the extreme northwestern portion of the American Continent, and is separated from the United States by the British Possessions.

The purchase of this vast country, containing more than half a million square miles, was accomplished by Wm. H. Seward, President Johnson's Secretary of State, the purchase price \$7,200,000 being paid to the Russian Government for Alaska, then known as Russian America. It was formally transferred to the United States on October 18, 1867. Owing to the desolate arctic nature of a large portion of the region, its purchase was at the time much ridiculed by the people and press of the country, and it became widely known as "Seward's Folly," "The Nation's Refrigerator," etc., strange to say, it has nevertheless proved to be a most valuable acquisition. Its fisheries are extensive, and its fur bearing animals are a source of great wealth from which the Government derives a large yearly income. Timber may also be found along the coast in sufficient quantities for fuel and building purposes for years to come. It is rapidly becoming prominent as a gold producer, and the industry can justly be considered in its infancy, for but a small fraction of the vast area has yet been explored.





BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF DOUGLAS, ALASKA.

Douglas City is located across the Channel about one and a half miles from Juneau. This is quite a business centre on account of the extensive mining on Douglas Island.





GENERAL VIEW OF THE GREAT TREADWELL MINE.





BURLEIGH DRILLS AT WORK ON THE GREAT TREADWELL LEDGE which is about 400 feet wide but to what extent it continues in a downward course is not known, but it is positively known to extend more than 500 feet, there being enough ore in sight to keep the 240 and 300 Stamp Mills in operation for many years.





CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE 300 STAMP MILL,
which when completed will be the largest Stamp Mill in the World. This
mill will operate exclusively on Treadwell Ore.





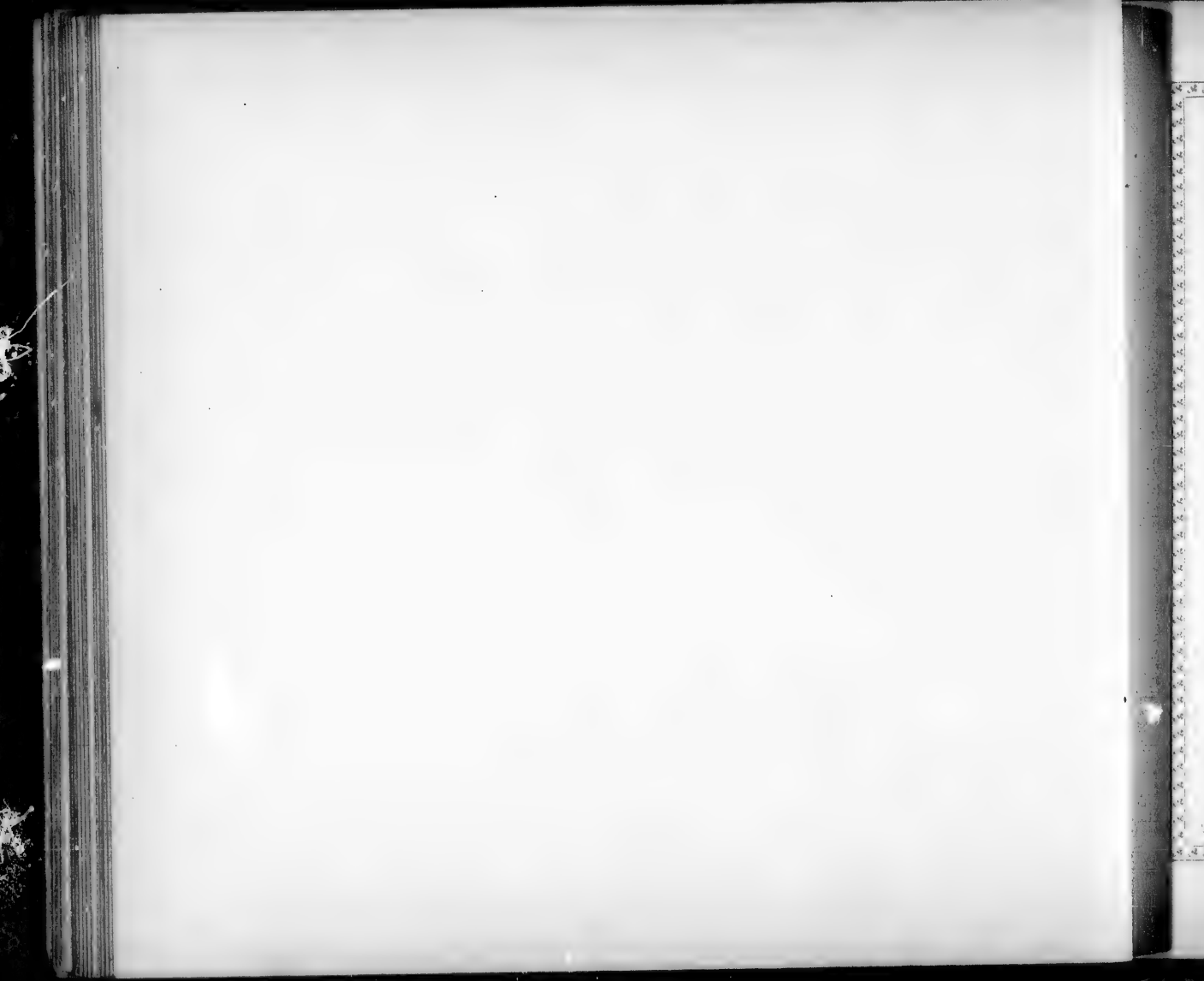
THE MEXICAN MILL.

which is about half a mile from Treadwell, has a 120 Stamp Mill. This mine, also Ready Bullion and Alaska United are under the same management as "Treadwell."





READY BULLION MILL.



TRIP TO ALASKA.

 F the great number of people who have visited Alaska in the last few years, almost all seem highly pleased, in fact quite enthusiastic. They never fail to make similar reports and tell the same story of the matchless grandeur of the trip to the Land of the Midnight Sun. All are charmed and delighted beyond measure with the magnificent exhibitions of auroral wonders. The innumerable scarlet columns and vivid streamers of dazzling beauty which rise in all directions from the horizon to the zenith, and their glowing tints, at short intervals, alternately increase and diminish. The exquisite rosy illumination reflected upon the majestic mountains, attired in their robes of pure white, present scenes whose lustrous grandeur is indescribably gorgeous.

Of the mighty glaciers which extend back over the mountain tops for miles in the distance, and, passing down through narrow passages, discharge immense chunks of ice that plunge into the sea and float off in their glory of inimitable splendor only to gradually melt and become a part of the briny deep.





BATTERY FLOOR OF THE "READY BULLION."

These Stamps are kept in operation day and night the year round, with the exception of the 4th of July and Christmas, when the mighty roar stops for the brief space of 24 hours, and then continue in their great task of pulverizing many hundred tons of Ore each day.



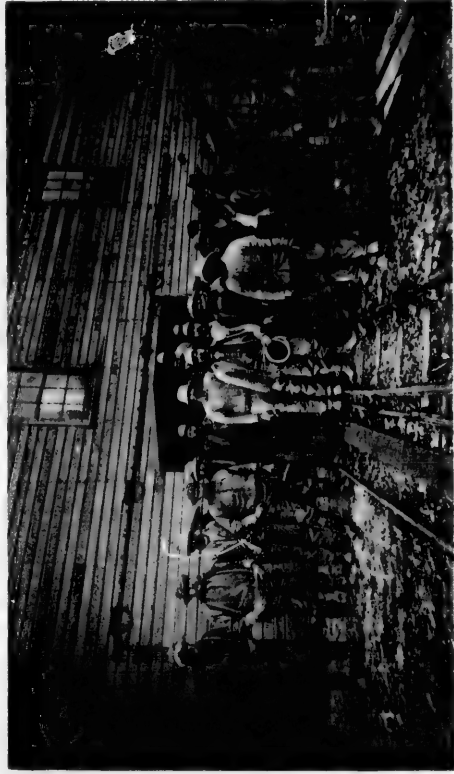


CONCENTRATOR FLOOR OF THE "READY BULLION,"

The Concentrator is a machine having a large continuous rubber belt which runs on a series of rollers on a slight incline. The pulp from the batteries are evenly distributed upon this wide belt which moves slowly and with a shaking motion.

They perform the work of separating the sulphurets from the sand, the former being deposited in a tank beneath, while the sand which is of no value passes into the Bay.





GROUP OF MINERS AT THE READY BULLION.

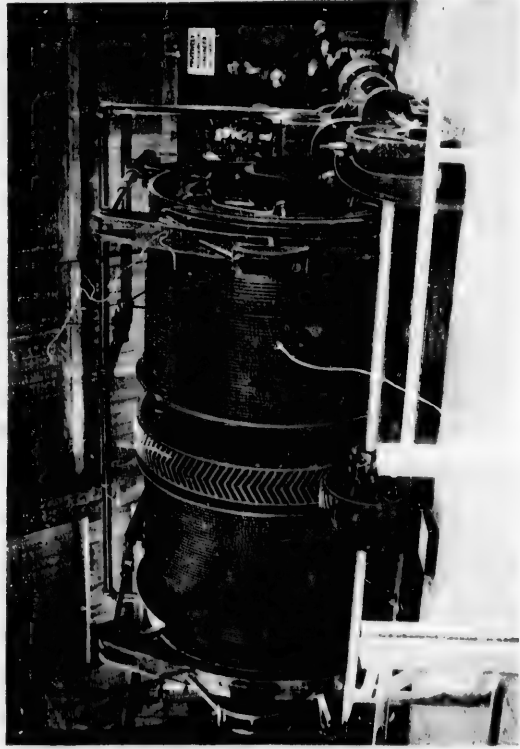


GROUP OF CARPENTERS AT THE READY BULLION.





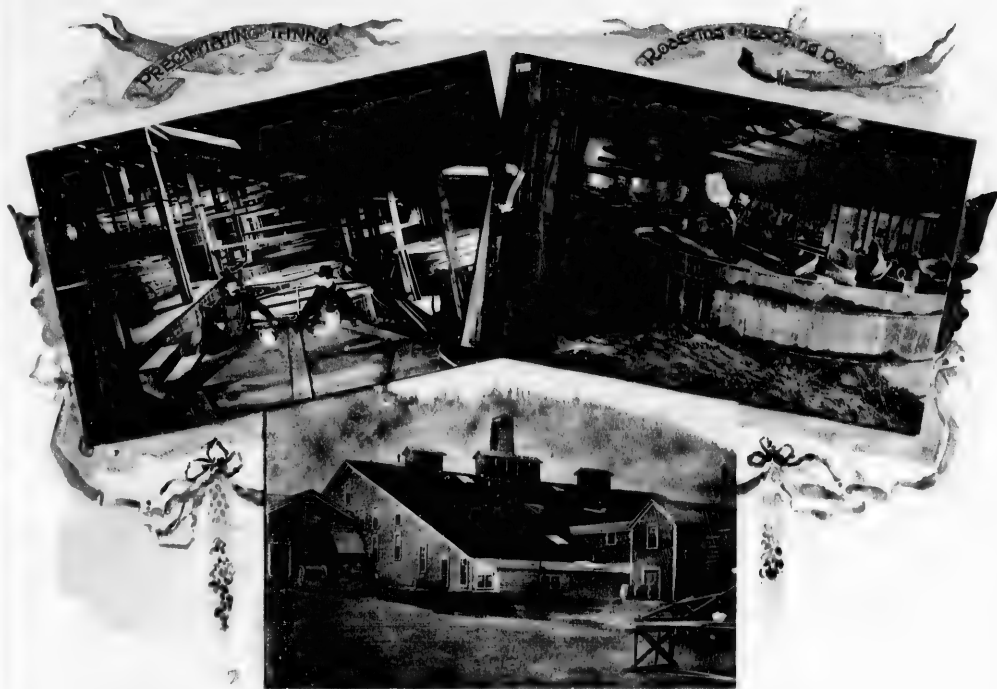
THE 700 MILL.



THE 700 HOIST.

The Hoist at the 700 foot Tunnel is similar to those used at the Mexican and Ready Bullion, capable of hoisting a large quantity of ore each day.





A. T. G. M. CO.'S CHLORINATION WORKS, DOUGLAS ISLAND:

The A. T. G. M. Co.'s Chlorination Works has the distinction of being the largest and handles Sulphurets cheaper than any similar works of the kind in the world.



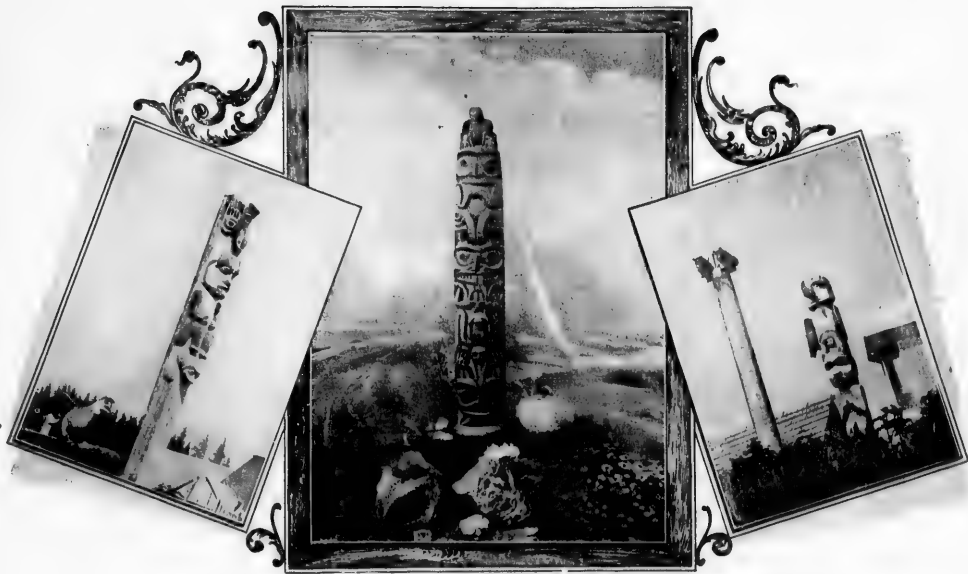
TOTEMS.

SEEING the Totem Poles for the first time, one stands in awe and admiration at the magnificently carved images which the red man of the north has so artistically executed upon the trunks of huge trees. Totems are used as monuments or tombs, and in some cases, the dead, after having been cremated, are sealed in a receptacle made for the purpose near the base of the Totem. It is said that from the nature of the carvings, the natives are able to read their history back in antiquity.

THE CACHE.

The Cache is a miniature house, in most cases having windows, shingles, etc., but no doors. These Caches are usually found near totems, or graves, as the case may be, each tribe having their own peculiar manner of burial. These places are stored with the earthly possessions of the deceased, such as trunks, clothing, implements of war, rare old earrings for the use of the departed spirit when it reaches the "Happy Hunting Ground."





TOTEM AT KAKE VILLAGE.

TOTEM POLE.

TOTEM AND CACHE.





THE NOWELL GOLD AND MINING CO., SHEEP CREEK, ALASKA, 3 miles below Juneau.

Ten Stamp mills working Ore from Glacier and Silver Queen Mines.





NATIVE WOMEN.

NATIVE WOMEN CLEANING FISH.





GASTINEAUX CHANNEL.





TAKON GLACIER.





TRAMWAY OVER SUMMIT.

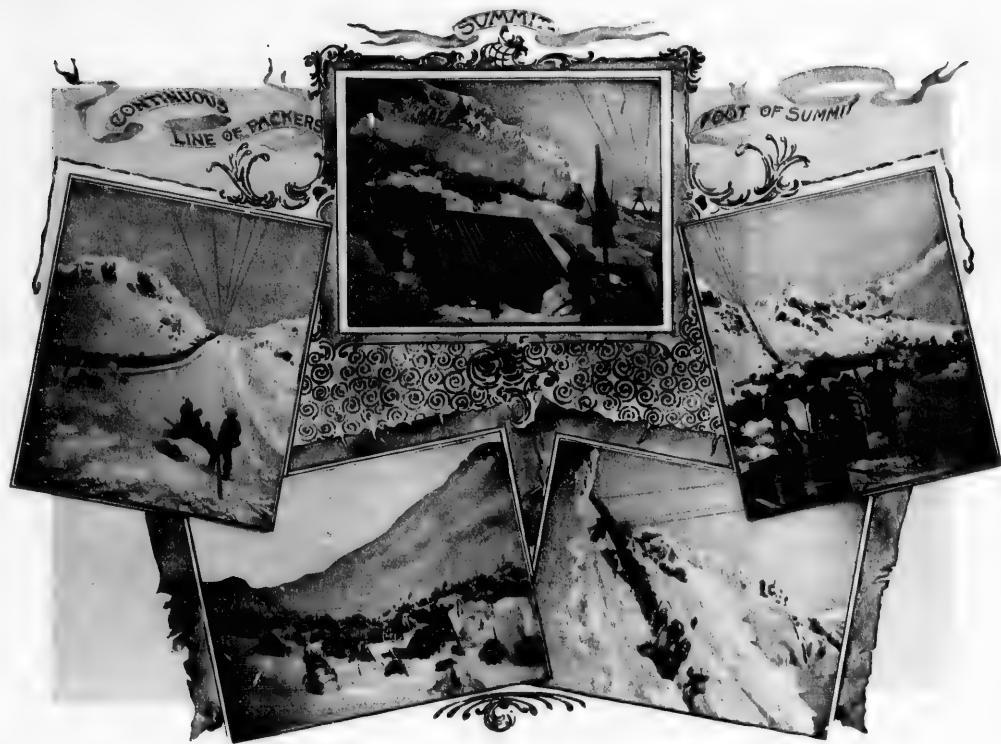




CUSTOM HOUSE ON SUMMIT, SHOWING AERIAL TRAMWAYS, WHICH TRANSPORT LARGE
QUANTITIES OF PROVISIONS,

Also British Flag which caused a good deal of comment at the time it was placed there, as there seemed
to be some question about its right to be there.





SCALES.

PACKING OVER SUMMIT





PACK TRAIN LOADING AT DEEP LAKE



LAKE LINDERMAN.

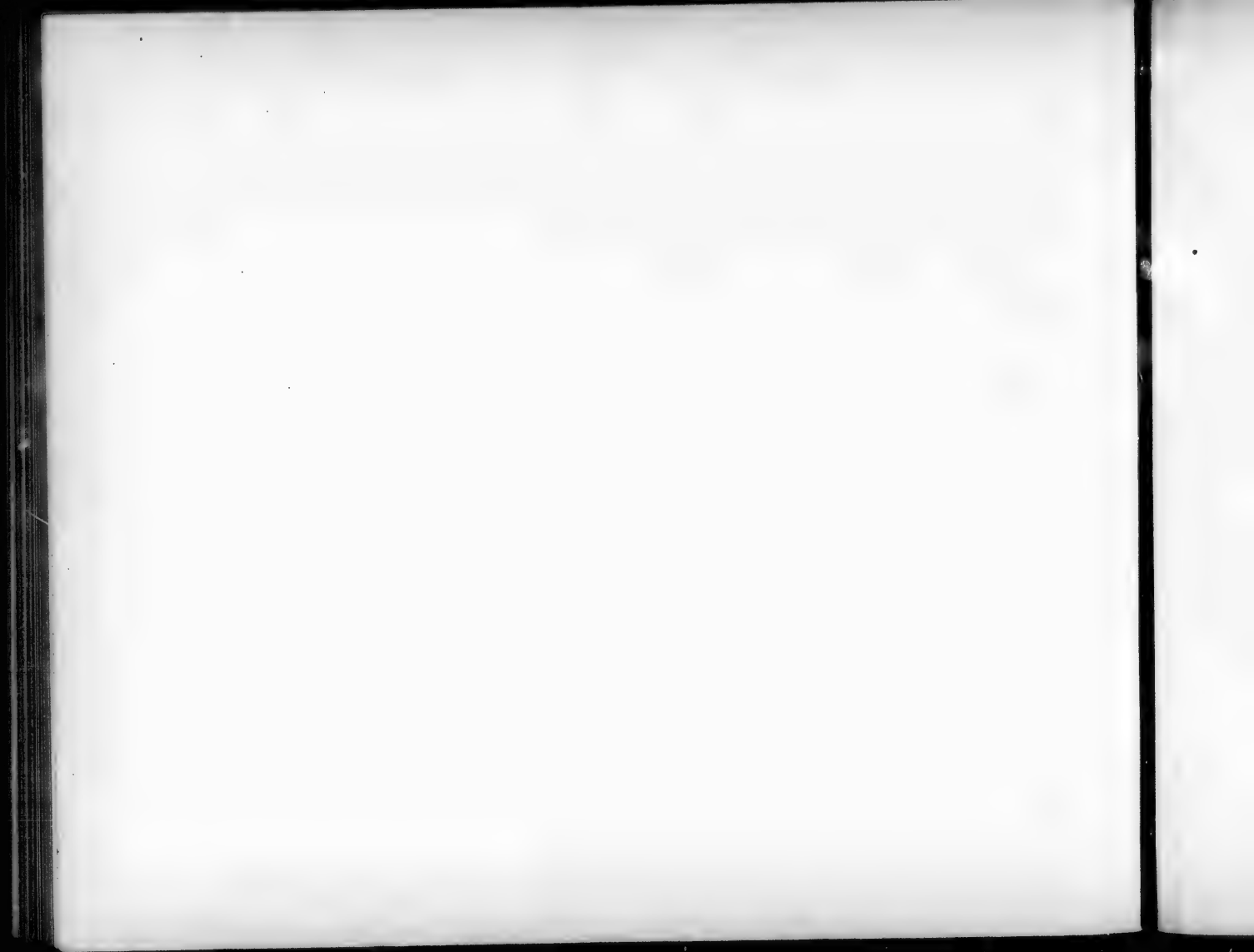




Boat Building at Lake Bennet.

Whip-Sawing Lumber.

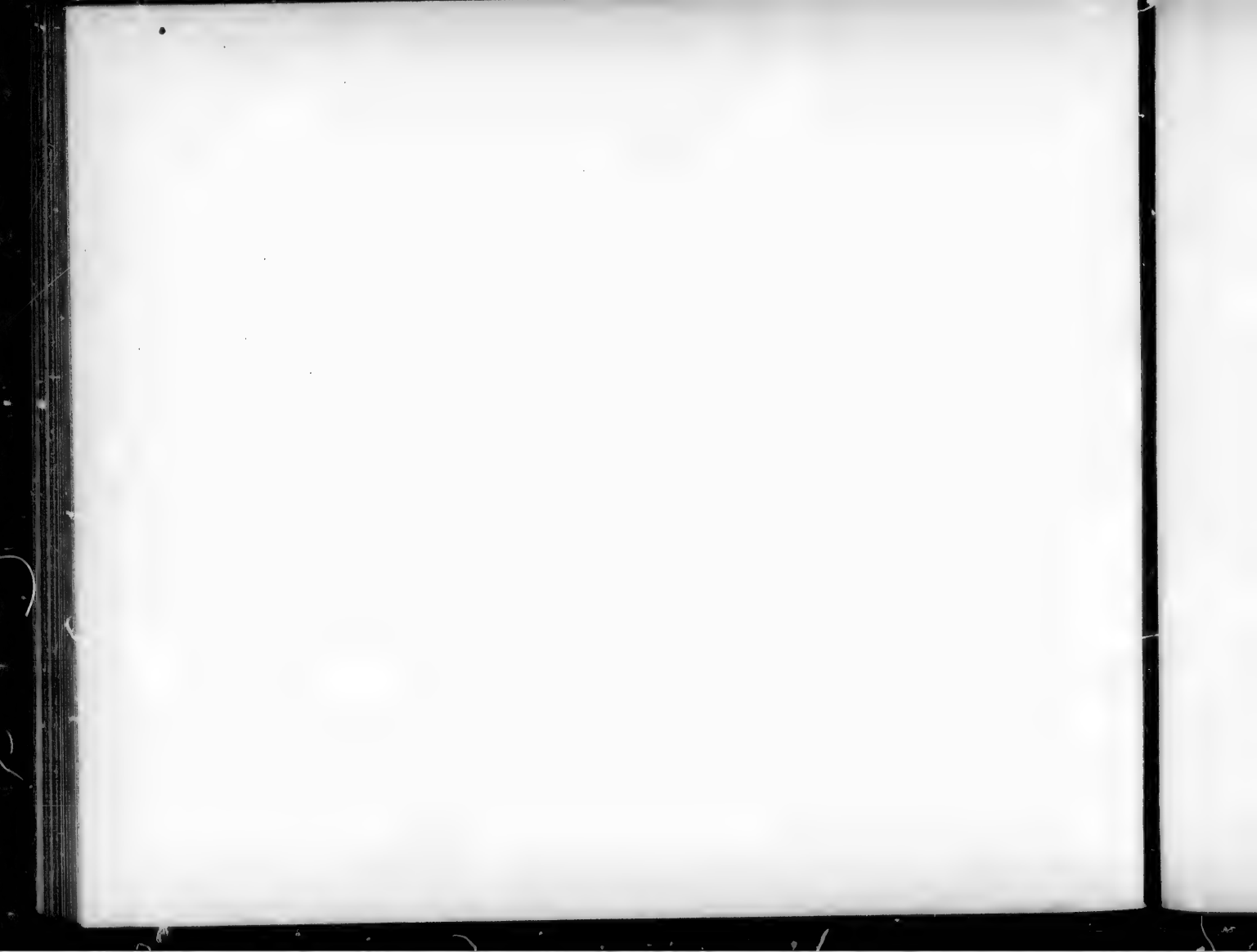
Packing between Linderman and Bennet.



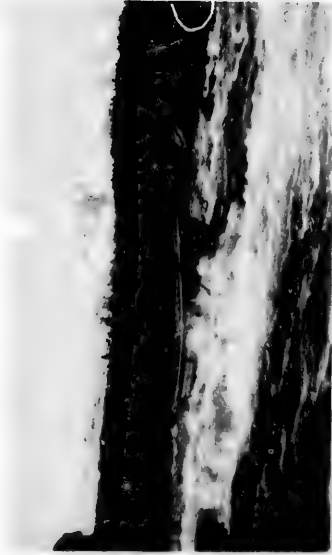


HEAD OF BENNET.

which gives a very good idea of the large number of people who were waiting for the ice to break. It is estimated that about twenty-five thousand persons passed this point in 1898.



WHITE HORSE RAPIDS.



SHOOTING THE
WHITE HORSE RAPIDS.



SLEDDING ON THE LAKES.







BREAKING OF THE YUKON, MAY 8th. 1898. at 4 P. M.

The breaking of the Yukon, like the Aurora Borealis, is a most beautiful and awe-inspiring sight.

The immense pieces of ice jam and pile up for many feet. This scene was witnessed by about 3000 people at Dawson in 1898.

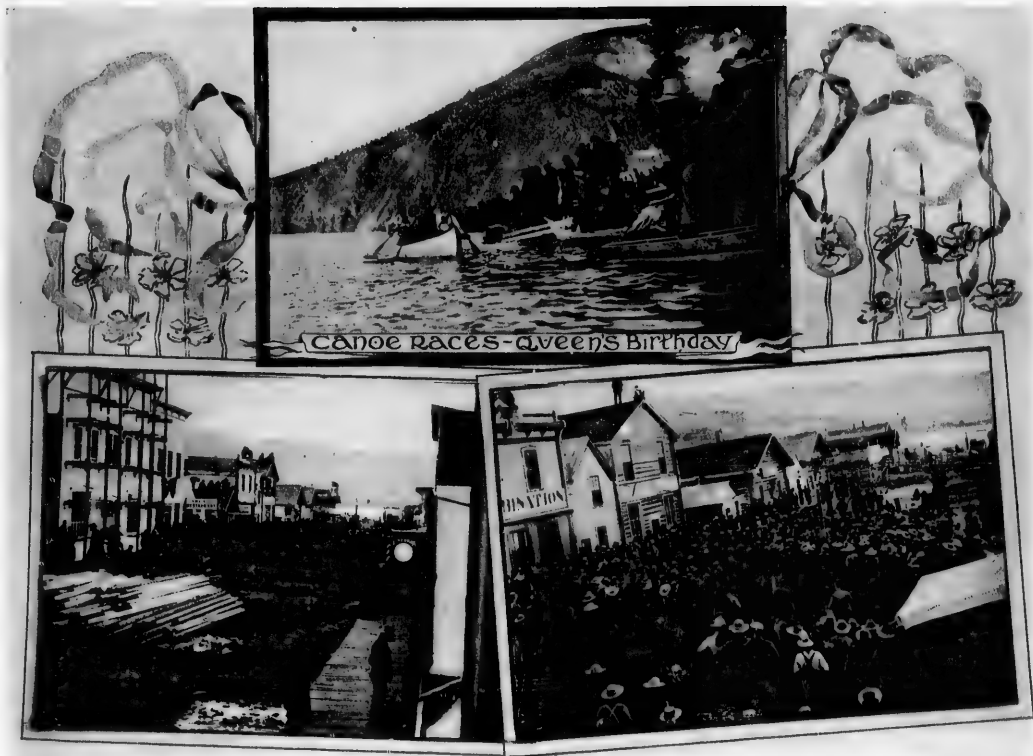




ICE ALONG SHORE AFTER THE BREAKING UP,

showing the result of an ice jam, the large chunks being forced out on the banks, which in time gradually melt and disappear.





Street Scene in Dawson, 1898.

Climbing Greasy Pole.

STREET SCENES IN DAWSON.





STREET SCENE IN DAWSON, JULY 4th, 1898.





ARRIVAL OF STEAMER MAY WEST, FIRST BOAT UP THE RIVER, JUNE, 1893.



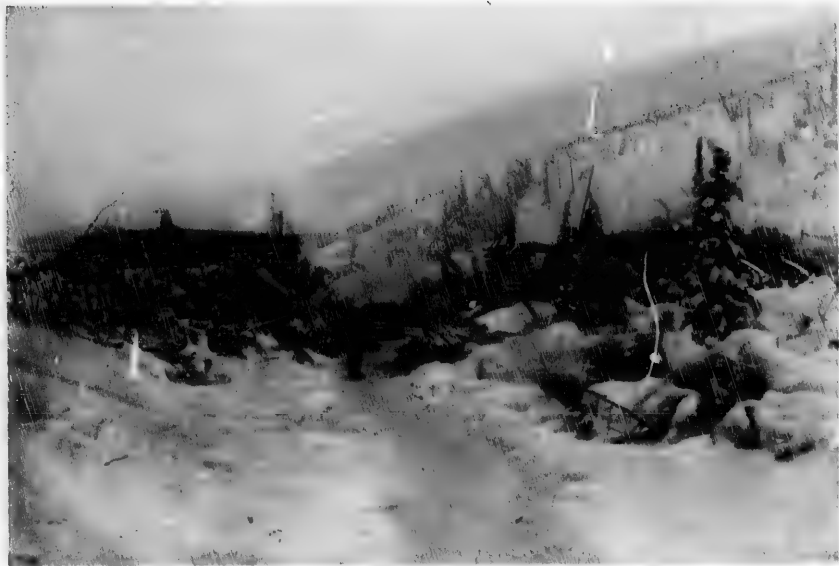
FIRST SMALL BOAT DOWN THE RIVER, MAY, 1898.



DISCOVERY OF THE KLONDIKE.

STICK GEORGE (George McCormack), while engaged fishing on the mouth of the Klondike River, heard of a recent gold discovery in the vicinity of Gold Bottom, and concluded to visit that place and ascertain as to the truth of the report. Accordingly he started up the Klondike in a poling boat, together with his brother-in-law, Skookum Jim (a native). They succeeded in getting up as far as the mouth of the creek, now known as Bonanza, and, thinking that it would be a much shorter and easier route, they decided to go up this creek and cross the summit. They proceeded up Bonanza about 16 miles, and, making camp at this place, noticed the rim rock cropping out, and thought they would examine it. They scraped up a pan off the high rim. When panned, it resulted in obtaining about \$2.50. This incident sufficiently aroused their curiosity to make further investigations. They went up the creek from this point about half a mile where a stream came in on the left bank. They proceeded up this creek (now known as Eldorado), and failing to obtain anything equal to the prospects found on Bonanza, they returned, and, on August 17, 1896, located Discovery, which has become widely known as the "Famous Klondike Strike."





MINING SCENE No. 24 BELOW ON BONANZA.
taken during the dark winter months at 63° below Zero.





SKOOKUM JIM'S CLAIM No. 1. ABOVE BONANZA.

This Claim proved to be quite valuable, as high as \$300 to the pan being taken out.





LOOKING UP ELDORADO FROM No. 16.



LOOKING DOWN ELDORADO FROM No. 16.

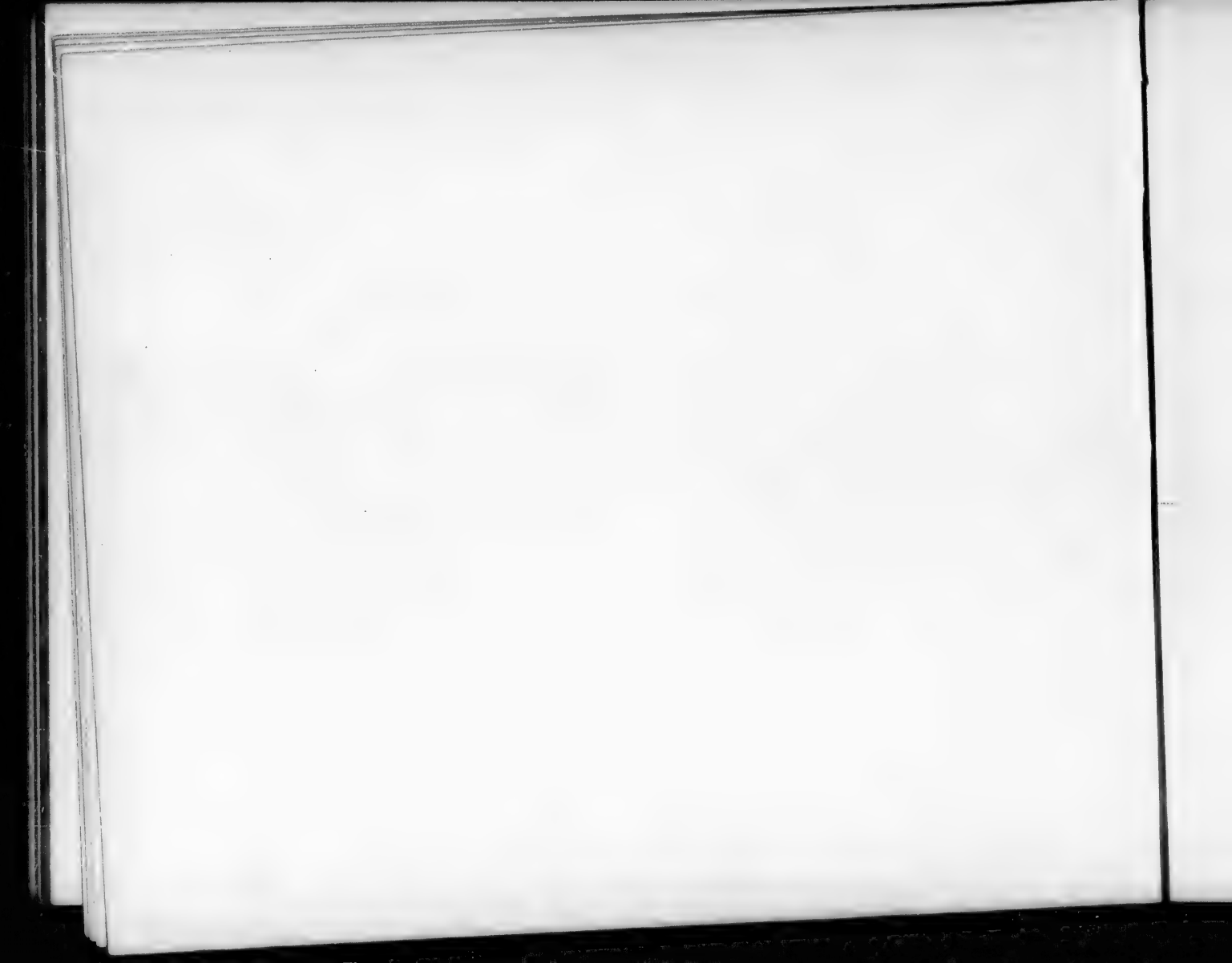
The country in this vicinity is rather rolling, the hills contain wash gravel in which gold is almost always found, but not always in paying quantities.





BERRY'S CLAIM, SHOWING THE FORKS OF EL Dorado AND BONANZA.

Bench claims at this point are exceedingly rich, one of the largest nuggets found in the county was extracted near here.



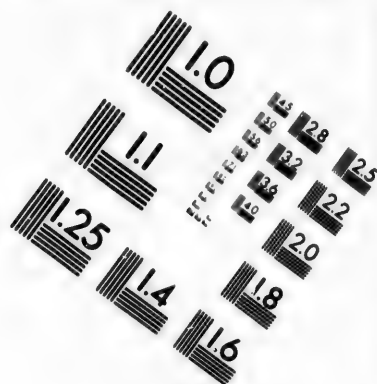


No. 11 ELDORADO SHOWING BOTH WINTER AND SUMMER WORK ON THE SAME CLAIM,
the upper part being drifted in winter, while the lower end with summer cut is worked in the summer months.

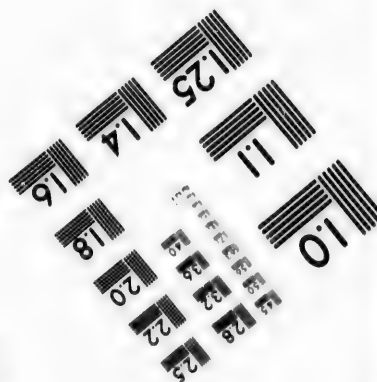




THE FAMOUS FRENCH HILL DISCOVERY, opposite No. 16 Eldorado.



6"



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01





No. 29 ELDORADO.

which proved to be the richest claim on the Creek, was bought by Chas. Anderson for \$800.
It is a well known fact that he refused \$400,000 for the claim.





MONGREL DOG TEAM.

DOG TEAM HAULING LUMBER.





THE FLOOD AT DAWSON, JUNE 1st, 1898.

This portion of the town was recently destroyed by fire.